

## Old World Gossip

BY LA MARQUISE DE FORTENOT.

PRIME MINISTER ASQUITH has created something of a sensation in religious circles throughout the United Kingdom by giving public expression the other day to the conviction that the existing laws against blasphemy are "an outworn and obsolete chapter, which should disappear, not only from the statute books, but from the common law as well."

The Premier delivered himself of this utterance at his historic office residence in Downing Street, in response to a deputation that had called upon him in order to press for the repeal of the laws against blasphemy.

The Prime Minister, however, is wrong in describing these laws as obsolete. For, during the last six years there have been more prosecutions for blasphemy than during the previous 100 years.

The most notable case, or rather the one which attracted the most attention, was that of a man of the name of Harry Roulter, who, before a considerable public gathering in the Park, had assailed Christianity and the Bible in particularly coarse language. The prisoner was found guilty by the jury, and the presiding judge, Sir Walter Riddell, at the Central Criminal Court, in delivering sentence, emphasized the fact that, while the prisoner was at liberty to entertain any opinions he pleased about Christianity, and even to give expression thereto in conversation with his friends and acquaintances, he had no right to proclaim them to the public, unhindered, and in a public place.

Strictly speaking, according to the laws dating from Edward VI, and still in existence in England, "all blasphemies against the Creator, denial of His being, as contumaciously regarding the Scriptures, all profane scoffing at the Scriptures, or holding up any portion thereof to contempt or ridicule," are punishable by the criminal courts with imprisonment and even corporal punishment. The blasphemy act of 1599 provides three years' imprisonment for any one denying the Trinity. This remained in existence until 1813, and in 1855 the courts decided that the laws of blasphemy did not apply to "the discussion of particular controversial points of the Scriptures, between learned men."

In 1841 Edward Moxon was sentenced to a term of imprisonment for having published Shelley's "Queen Mab," which was regarded as blasphemous, and in 1867 a man of the name of Cowen was held guilty of blasphemy for having, in a lecture-room which he had hired for the purpose, declared "the character of Christ defective, His teaching misleading, and the Bible no more inspired than any other book." In 1892 the high court reaffirmed the pronouncement of Chief Justice Hale from the bench, to the effect that "Christianity is part of the laws of England."

In Germany the punishment for blasphemy is imprisonment for a term ranging anywhere from one day to three years; but the blasphemy must be uttered in public, be offensive in character, and have wounded the religious susceptibilities of some other person. In Austria, where the crime of blasphemy, by speech or writing, is liable to imprisonment for anywhere from six months to ten years.

In Germany, in Austria, and especially in Great Britain, the prosecutions under the blasphemy laws are almost invariably initiated by private persons, and it is this that Prime Minister Asquith has in mind in proclaiming himself in favor of their repeal and abolition. The others of the law, that is to say, the police authorities, the public prosecutor, and the magistrates, are never disposed to move in the matter but have been so far from doing so, that they have even refused to issue warrants along with a complaint, and charges another citizen with breaking the laws against blasphemy, then the courts are compelled to deal with the matter, and to apply the statutes as they stand. The extent to which they are applied depends upon the fact, the breadth of the charge, and the good sense of the judge or magistrate called upon to deal with the case.

The Duchess de Tallerrand, who was Miss Anna Gould's New York, has done wisely to withdraw her opposition to the suit brought by her judicially divorced husband, Boni de Castellane, for the annulment of his marriage to her by a civil court, and to the annulment of the marriage by a civil court, in fact, it is difficult to know why she ever contested the case, and the only motive which could possibly have prompted her, must have been animosity towards De Castellane.

For the annulment of her first marriage by the church—already annulled in the eyes of the law by divorce—would not affect in any way the legitimacy of her three boys by De Castellane, any more than the ecclesiastical annulment of the reigning Prince of Monaco's first marriage to Lady Mary Louise Hamilton, now Princess Fieschi, impaired the legitimacy of the child, the eighth of the church, of her only son by her first marriage, now Crown Prince Louis of Monaco. On the other hand, it does, of the church, to the effect that her marriage to De Castellane was invalid, would have the result of rendering her present marriage to the Duc de Tallerrand lawful, according to the ideas of the Catholic Church and of all of its adherents. As the matter now stands, they consider her betrothal to the duke as unlawful, and her little boy by her second marriage, namely, the five-year-old Duke of Sagan, as more or less illegitimate.

It is by no means certain that the papal courts will grant the application of Boni de Castellane to declare his marriage to Anna Gould invalid.

## DOES TANGO REDUCE FLESH?

The violent movements of the modern dances naturally tend to keep flesh down, but they also tend to put an extra strain upon the vital organs, especially the heart, and so may damage the health more than assist it. Besides, many people do not dance, some people do not believe in dancing and few people can afford the time to dance enough to really accomplish much reduction. A better way to dissolve fatty deposits and quickly without dieting is by taking the parnotis treatment, made at home as follows: Put 4 ounces parnotis (from your drug-ist's) in 1½ pints hot water and strain when cool. Take a tablespoonful before meals until weight is where you want it. No harm results from the use of the parnotis treatment, and the flesh is left soft and the skin soft and smooth.—A.G. vertement.

At any rate, the case will not be finally decided for some time to come. But if the union is pronounced null and void, it will be exclusively and wholly on the strength of evidence to the effect that when Anna Gould embarked upon the marriage contract, she proclaimed her intention to break it whenever it suited her, by means of divorce.

The papal courts, like the secular courts in almost every civilized country, take the ground that if it can be shown that a contract is entered into with one of the parties (here to acting in bad faith, and with no intention of abiding by its provisions and stipulations, it is sufficient to impair the legal value of the agreement.

And the Catholic Church considers marriage as the most sacred and solemn binding of all contracts, a contract on the observance of which not merely the welfare of the individual, but also the welfare of the state depends; in fact, as one of the foundations of our civilization. Nay, the Catholic Church holds that marriage is so sacred a contract that it constitutes in its eyes a sacrament. (Copyright, 1914, by the Brentwood Company.)

## GRAND JURY RETURNS MANY INDICTMENTS

Violations of Revenue Laws Charged, and Two Still Held by Officers. Court Still in Session.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] Sussex Circuit Court, Va., May 16.—Sussex Circuit Court, Judge J. F. West presiding, convened on Tuesday and is still in session. Gurney Gwaltney was tried upon the charge of attempting to murder Deputy-Sergeant James O. Cannon, of Wakefield, convicted and given a sentence of ninety days on the county roads.

The regular grand jury returned nine indictments for violation of the revenue laws, including one against Robert Jackson, colored, and one against Will L. Stafford, white, for late hour next morning and continued operating illicit distilleries. Capases were issued, and Sheriff J. J. Falson and Deputy H. L. Harris left to raid the distilleries and arrest the parties. They located Jackson's still, which was filled with mash and ready to be fired, near Gray, and returned with him and his still to Sussex jail at late hour next morning and continued operating at one of which they found seven bags of meal and a jug containing whiskey. It is believed that the distillery was removed after the learned the grand jury was investigating the matter and before the sheriff arrived. Stafford was allowed bail yesterday in the sum of \$800 for his appearance at the July term of the court, Jackson is still in jail.

Three indictments were returned against J. Sol Baugh for selling ardent spirits at Stony Creek. Baugh was brought into court and allowed bail in the sum of \$500.

Sam Williams, of Chub, was also indicted for selling ardent spirits without a license, and upon learning that one indictment had been found, made sale of his little store and other effects and left for "parts unknown" before the sheriff, armed with the capias, arrived at his place of business.

An indictment was returned against Boone Coleman for shooting his wife with intent to kill.

In the case of J. J. Mitchell vs. Sonnie Myrick, involving a timber contract, the jury returned a verdict for \$2 in favor of the plaintiff.

A large number of decrees were entered in chancery causes.

## WEISBERGERS

## First Showing Beautiful Summer Hats

The initial display of Summer Millinery is to be featured to-morrow, and most attractive are the styles. As usual, we again are the first to show what is new for summer, and in accordance with the Weisberger policy, prices are considerably lower than others ask. See the new Panamas, Leghorns, White Hemps, White Chip and Milans.



Trimmed Hats Priced at \$2.98 to \$15

Untrimmed Hats Priced at \$1.98 to \$3.50

As summer advances the shapes are gaining in size, and most popular will be the sailor effects and high side styles. Plan to visit this department every day and keep posted on the latest styles, which will always be found here.

Hats Trimmed Free

**\$1.25 Porch Rocker**  
**79c**

Of varnished maple, in natural green, heavy slat back, double reed seat; makes a nice sewing or nursery Rocker. 79c

# A Special Sale of Undermuslins

Doubly Welcome Because of Its Timeliness and Its Remarkable Values

Dainty, crisp, new Undermuslins at prices way below the regular values—bought from several prominent makers, especially for this sale, at big price concessions, enables us to quote the remarkable values below.

- Women's Circular or Skirt Drawers, nicely trimmed with Swiss embroidery; value 59c, special to-morrow. **39c**
- Women's White Petticoats, made with a deep embroidered flounce, from fine quality muslin; worth \$1.75, special. **\$1.19**
- Women's Muslin Petticoats, made with a deep embroidered flounce; good quality muslin and worth 89c, special at only. **69c**
- Women's White Petticoats, made of extra quality muslin, deep embroidery or lace flounce; worth regularly \$1.50, special at. **95c**
- Women's Combination Corset Covers and Drawers, trimmed with pretty laces and embroideries at bottom; ribbon run at neck and armholes; worth 89c; special at. **59c**
- Women's Combination Corset Covers and Drawers, beautifully trimmed with laces and embroideries; special at. **95c**
- Women's Combination Corset Covers and Drawers, beautifully trimmed at bottom, arm holes and neck with lace and embroidery; special. **\$1.50**
- Women's Splendid Quality Muslin Night Gowns, beautifully trimmed and extra well made; worth regularly 89c, special at. **69c**
- Women's Muslin Night Gowns, in high or low neck styles and nicely trimmed at neck and arms; very special. **49c**
- Women's Muslin Night Gowns, trimmed at neck and arm holes with laces and embroideries; worth \$1.00, special. **79c**
- Women's Muslin Gowns, made of fine quality muslin, trimmed with laces and pretty embroideries at neck and arm holes; special at. **\$1.50**
- Women's Muslin Drawers, cut in very full size and hemmed and tucked; worth 19c, special at. **12½c**
- Women's Drawers, made of splendid quality muslin, cut full sizes and embroidered trimmed, 60c value; extra special at. **39c**
- Women's Drawers, daintily trimmed with laces and embroideries; cut full size in different styles; special at. **49c**
- Women's Muslin Corset Covers, trimmed with pretty laces and embroideries; worth regularly 18c, special at. **15c**
- Muslin Corset Covers, made of splendid quality muslin; good shape and nicely trimmed; worth 39c, special. **29c**
- Women's Muslin Corset Covers, beautifully trimmed with pretty laces and embroideries; an extra special value with us at. **49c**

## Laces and Embroideries

- 45-inch Embroidered Crepe Flouncing; beautiful new designs; regular 89c, special. **59c**
- Embroidery Edges and Insertions; beautiful open and blind patterns; special. **12½c**
- Embroidery Allover, beautiful baby patterns; regular 75c, special, at per yard. **50c**
- Shadow Flouncing, beautiful new designs, 18 inches wide; regular 39c value, special, yard. **25c**
- German and French Val. Laces, 1 to 2½ inches wide, with insertions to match; regular 8c value, special, yard. **4c**
- Linen Torchon Lace, made of fine quality linen; regular 14c, special, yard. **2c**

## Two Waist Specials

- Women's Vofle Waists, in beautiful new styles; prettily designed and very nicely made; \$1.25 value; special Monday at. **79c**
- Women's Lingerie and Fancy Waists, in fine new spring designs, well made and worth \$1.50, special. **95c**

## A Special Shoe Purchase

We have purchased from the Paffshoe Co., and other well known makers of children's and girls' shoes several thousand pairs of fine quality Low Shoes. These shoes were made for firms who have recently failed, and naturally were thrown on the factories' hands, who had to dispose of them at a loss and we were the lucky purchaser. These shoes have been assorted on tables, with the prices marked on them so you could pick them out with ease.

- TABLE NO. 1—Children's Instep Strap Pumps, in patent, gunmetal and tan leathers; values to \$1.50; sizes 5 to 8. **79c**
- TABLE NO. 2—Children's Instep Strap Pumps, in patent, gunmetal and tan leathers; values to \$2.00; sizes 8½ to 11. **99c**
- TABLE NO. 3—Misses' Fine Quality Strap Pumps, in patent, gunmetal and tan; values from \$2 to \$1.29. **\$1.29**
- TABLE NO. 4—Large Girls' and Women's Low Shoes, in assorted styles, in all leathers; sizes 2½ to 6; values to \$2.50. **\$1.49**
- TABLE NO. 5—Large Girls' and Women's Strap Pumps, in patent, gunmetal and tan; low and high heels; sizes 2½ to 6; values up to \$3. **\$1.69**
- TABLE NO. 6—Women's Rubber Heeled Julietts, very flexible soles, with and without tip; \$1.50 values. **95c**
- TABLE NO. 7—Large Girls' White Canvas Low Heel Oxford; sizes 2 to 6; \$2.00 value. **\$1.00**
- TABLE NO. 8—Children's Leather Barefoot Sandals; all sizes to No. 59c. **59c**

## New Silks Under-priced

- The Best Standard \$1.25, 36-in. Black Taffeta; fully guaranteed; every yard guaranteed not to split or tear; must and will \$1.00 wear well, for Monday. **\$1.00**
- 36-inch All-Silk Black Messaline, the soft lustrous kind; jet black and well worn \$1. **79c**
- 22 to 24-inch Solid Color Crepe de Chines, all-silk; in a number of good leading shades; our 65c quality, to close out on 39c Monday only. **39c**
- Dainty Printed Crepes, all silk, 40 inches wide; full line of the much wanted spring designs; the latest effects; our \$2.00 quality, for Monday. **\$1.25**
- 27-inch Hyde Grade Galatens, in plains and fancies; many patterns to choose from, sells at 18c, Monday. **15c**
- 36-inch White Pique, in different size wefts, an extra fine quality; will make up well for skirts, coats, etc.; sells at 20c, Monday special. **15c**
- 40-inch White Nub Ratine, an extra good quality, imported; fine for skirts and dresses; value 65c. **40c**
- 36-inch Superior Long Cloth, chambray finish, an elegant material for children's and ladies' underwear; 10-yd. pieces; \$1.35 value, Monday. **99c**

## Specials in the Furniture Department—on the Third and Fourth Floors

- Bamboo Table, Worth \$1.00, at **69c**
- Bamboo Tabourettes, Worth 39c, at **28c**
- Reed Go-Carts, \$12.50 to \$35.00. Special—Collapsible Go-Carts, worth \$5.50, at \$4.95.
- \$25 Brass Bed, \$16.95
- \$16.00 Extension Table, \$9.98
- \$18.00 Couch, \$9.98
- \$15 Cotton Mattress, \$8.98
- \$12 Oak Chair, 89c
- \$7.50 Enamel Bed, \$4.95
- \$9.00 Chiffonier, \$5.98

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**\$1.75 Ready-Made Awnings, Like Sketch, at 98c each**

Made of heavy blue and white duck; complete with all the necessary fixtures (including hanging); mounted on solid iron frames; scalloped at bottom and bound with red material. Sizes, 20-in., 30-in., 42-in. and 54-in. wide and 2 ft. 9 in. extension. Bring or send measurements. The price is so low that we cannot measure or hang these awnings. No phone orders.



## \$15 Dresses, \$9.75

Discriminating women and Misses will be pleased with these Dresses, made of chiffon, taffeta, silk poplin and many fancy materials, in a full line of favored spring shades, while the styles are the best that experts can produce, showing the new overskirts and ruffle effects, beautifully trimmed and unusually well made.

## \$8.75 Dresses, \$5.75

A special purchase of Women's Wash Dresses brings you this splendid offer. Made of white, white lingerie, crepes, both flowered and plain, and ruffles, in a full line of desirable colors and patterns, well tailored and nicely trimmed, in all the newest styles.

## \$5 and \$6 Dresses, \$3.95

Women's Dresses, made of voiles, crepes, linens, pique and fancy materials, in both plain colors and fancy patterns, made with tunic effect skirts and lace trimmed.

## \$4 and \$4.75 Dresses, \$2.95

Wash Dresses for women and Misses, in pretty fancy black and white patterns, as well as fancy and all white; made in all the newest styles, showing ruffle tunic skirts; materials are linen, flowered and plain crepe, gingham and ruffles.

## Summer Corsets, 25c

Women's and Misses' Summer Corsets, made of coutil or net, in long or medium hip styles; very cool and comfortable for summer wear.

## Summer Wash Skirts

No larger assortments, better qualities or greater values will be found in all Richmond—below are listed three great values for to-morrow:

- Women's Wash Skirts, made of fine quality pique, prettily tailored models and well made; trimmed with buttons; worth \$1.00, special. **69c**
- New Spring Skirts, made of fine quality pique and ratine, trimmed with buttons and self materials; styles are both plain and overskirt effects; while the fit and workmanship, 95c are exceptionally good; worth \$1.50, at. **95c**
- White Pique and Ratine Skirts, made with tunic and overskirt effects; nicely trimmed with buttons and self materials; well tailored and perfect fitting; worth \$2.50, special. **\$1.69**

## Men's Furnishings

- Men's Union Suits, made of madras and nainsook; regular \$1.00 quality; all sizes; athletic style, each. **73c**
- Men's White Shirts, in plaited or plain negligee; sold everywhere at 50c and considered exceptionally good quality; all sizes; special for this day. **36c**
- We have the best Silk Hose for men that's made; colors: tan, gray, navy and black; made with high heel splicing and double sole, heel and toe. **25c**
- Men's Colored Border and Plain White Handkerchiefs; regular 5c ones, special Monday, 3 for 10c. **10c**

## GREAT SPECIALS IN THE BASEMENT

- FAIRY SOAP: a pure white soap for toilet and bath; 4 cakes for. **13c**
- OLD MILL SOAP—A good laundry soap and for general house use; 6 cakes for. **17c**
- Window Screens Extension Window Screens, "A" quality wire cloth, frames finished in walnut stain. Special for Monday only in following sizes: High Closed, Open, Price: No. 1 15 21 33 14c No. 2 18 21 33 17c No. 3 24 21 33 18c No. 4 24 28 33 23c
- Screen Doors Screen Doors, 3 panel, walnut stained frames; best black wire, 28x68, 210x610, 3x7. Special, any size, Monday only. **79c**
- TOILET PAPER: large rolls, fine tissue; 6c rolls; 14c rolls for only. **24c**
- 3-ply Rubber Garden Hose, in 50-foot lengths, 3/4 bore, wire covered, warranted for whole season; value \$7.50; special Monday only. **\$5.98**
- Famous "Tip Top" Lawn Mowers, 12-in. size; three revolving knives on parallel bearing; tempered steel under knife; 8-in. valve wheels; every one factory tested; value \$3.25; special Monday only. **\$1.98**
- Three-Blade Invincible Lawn Mowers, 9-inch drive wheels; 14-in. cut; under knife properly hardened; built to give satisfaction; value \$5.00; special Monday. **\$3.79**
- Large 10-inch Cut Mowers, 4 knives of tool steel and hardened under knife; easy running ball-bearing; value \$7.50; special Monday. **\$5.69**
- Dress Trunk, canvas covered, Excellent locks; good straps; strong brass hardware; 32 inches long; value \$6.00; special. **\$4.39**
- Dark Oak Finish, Insulated 10-chambered galvanized sheet steel food chambers white enamel lined; capacity \$14.87 75 lbs.; special Monday.
- Dark Oak Finished Refrigerator, food chambers of white enamel; capacity 40 lbs. **\$7.95**
- Dark Oak Finished Refrigerator, galvanized lined throughout, insulated walls, 30 lbs. capacity; extra good value \$4.98 Monday only.
- Real Leather, Heavy Walrus Black Travelling Bags, sizes 16, 17 and 18 inches; protected with heavy leather corners; leather lined; inside pocket; \$8.00 bag. **\$2.98**

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